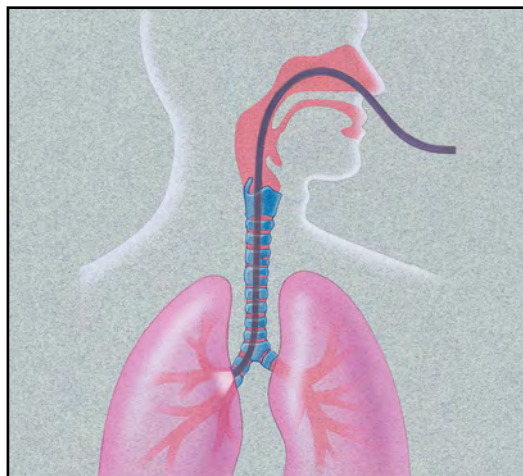


What Is Bronchoscopy?

Bronchoscopy is an exam used to help diagnose lung problems. This exam provides a direct view of your breathing passages. A thin, flexible tube called a **bronchoscope** is used. A special light and a tiny camera are attached to the tube. Depending on the results of the bronchoscopy, you may need other tests to confirm your problem.



The bronchoscope may be used to gather tissue samples (brushing and biopsy).



Brushing



Biopsy

Remember Your Exam

My Appointment:

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

Phone: () _____

Bring Your Questions

Use the space below to write any questions you may have. Bring them along on the day of your exam.

Consultant:

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With contributions by:

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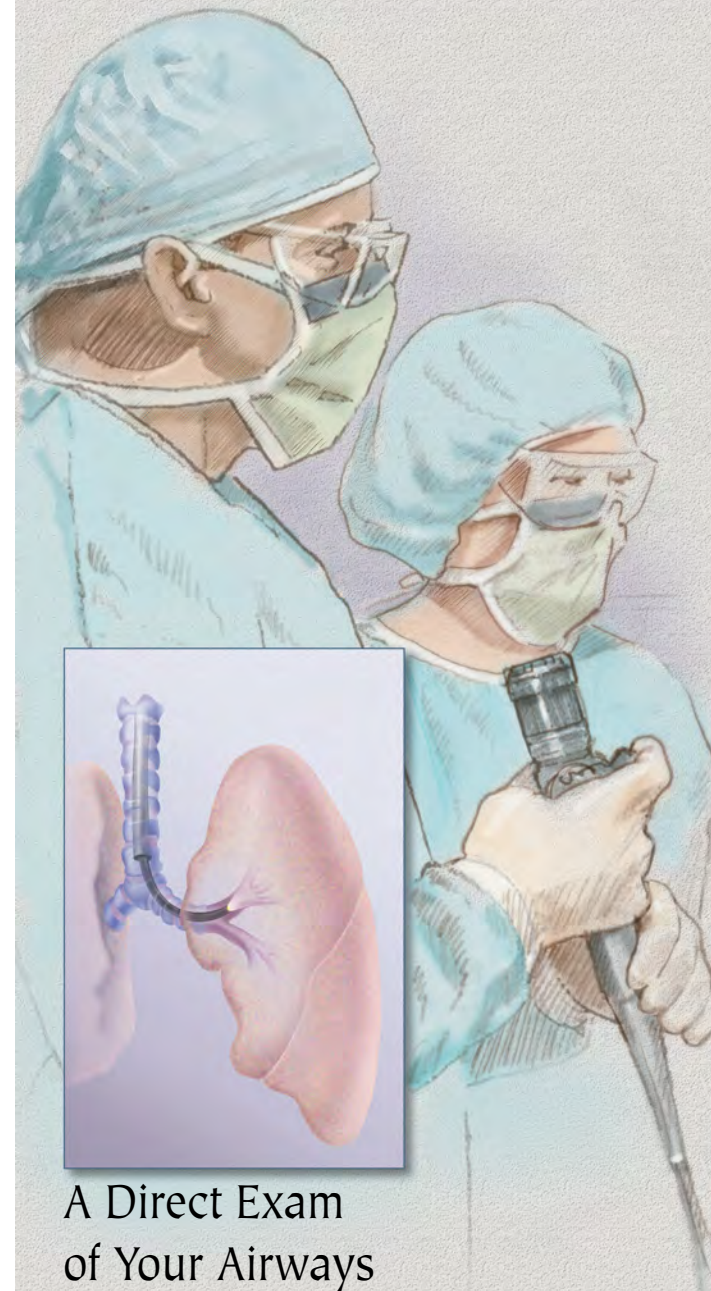
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Bronchoscopy



Before Your Exam

To prepare for your bronchoscopy, you may be told to do the following:

- ❑ Stop eating or drinking for 6 to 12 hours before the exam, or stop as directed. If you have diabetes, ask what you may have to eat or drink before the exam.
- ❑ Stop smoking for 12 to 24 hours before the exam, or stop as directed.
- ❑ Arrange for an adult family member or friend to drive you home.
- ❑ Read and sign a consent form.

After arriving at the surgery center, you should empty your bladder. You will be given medications to help you relax and to prevent gagging. The medications may be given by **IV (intravenous)** line. Also, your nose and throat may be numbed with a special spray.

Tell the Healthcare Provider

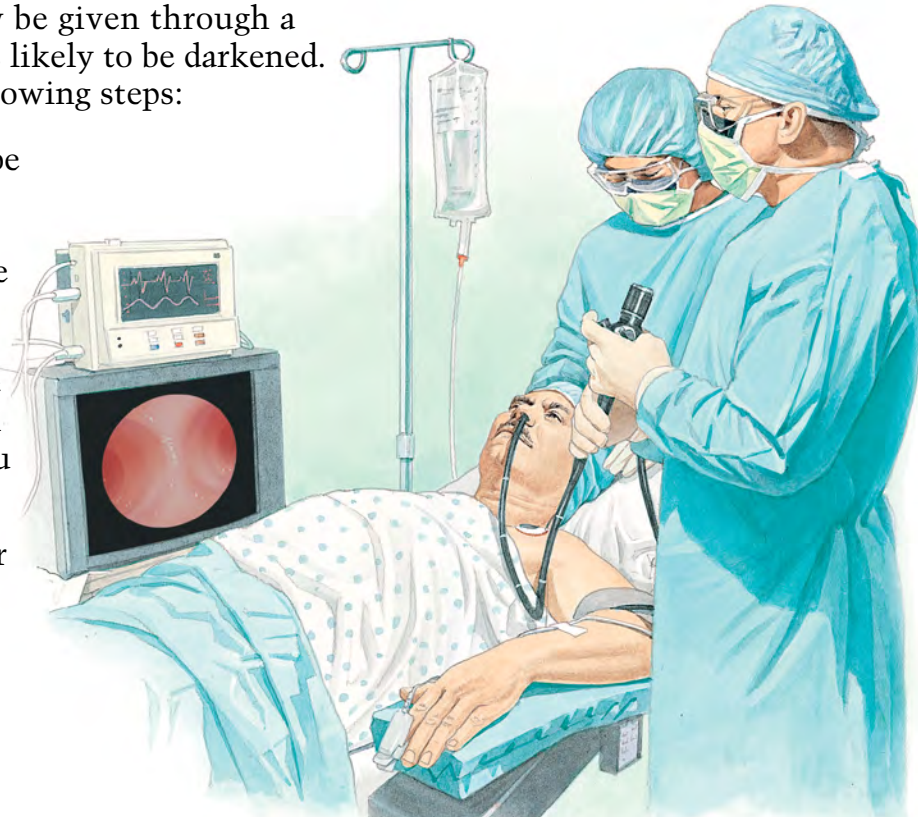
Before your bronchoscopy, be sure to tell the healthcare provider about:

- All medications you use, including inhalers, vitamins, and herbal remedies. Ask which ones may need to be stopped before the test.
- Allergies you have. Mention if you are allergic to latex, tape, or any medications.
- Any lung problems you have had.
- Whether you are pregnant.

During the Bronchoscopy

Bronchoscopy usually takes about 45 to 60 minutes. You will lie on a table with your head raised. Or, you may sit in a special chair. Oxygen may be given through a soft nasal clip. The room is likely to be darkened. The exam includes the following steps:

- The doctor inserts the tube into your nose or mouth. You might feel a gagging sensation. To help relieve this feeling, you may be told to swallow or take deep breaths. You will be able to breathe even with the tube in place. But you won't be able to talk.
- The doctor examines your breathing passages. Tiny tissue samples may be removed for biopsy.



After Your Exam

You will be given instructions to follow after your exam. To avoid choking, spit out any saliva in your mouth. Also, do not eat or drink until the medication wears off fully. Try to avoid severe coughing and clearing your throat. If you have a sore throat or hoarseness, gargling may help. The doctor will discuss the test results at your next visit.

Call Your Doctor

Call your doctor if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Shortness of breath
- A temperature of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher
- Bleeding from your nose or throat
- Unusual changes in your heartbeat

If you have chest pain or severe shortness of breath, call right away.